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BOX NEW PATENT APPLICATION
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attorney Docket No.: SONY-12601

NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of Inventor: Jon Ebbe Brelin

Title: A METHOD OF AND APPARATUS FOR UTILIZING EXTENDED AV/C COMMAND AND RESPONSE FRAMES INCLUDING TRANSACTION LABEL AND COMMON RESULT/ERROR CODE

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.10

I hereby certify that this New Application and the documents referred to as enclosed herein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this date, July 25, 2000, in an envelope bearing "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee" Mailing Label Number EL055724247US addressed to: **PATENT APPLICATION**, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Carleen O'Brien
(Name of Person Mailing Paper)

Signature

Enclosed are:

1. The papers required for filing date under CFR § 1.53(b).
- 30 Pages of Specification (including claims); 9 Sheet(s) of Drawings.
Formal
Informal
- X Declaration or Oath (combined with Power of Attorney) Unexecuted
X Power of Attorney (combined with Declaration) Unexecuted
Assignment of the Invention to Sony Corporation and Sony Electronics, Inc. (including Form PTO-1595).

Fee Calculation

- Amendment changing number of claims or deleting multiple dependencies is enclosed.

CLAIMS AS FILED

	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate	Basic Fee
				\$690.00
Total Claims	27 - 20 =	7	\$18.00	126.00
Independent Claims	6 - 3 =	3	\$78.00	234.00
Multiple Dependent claim(s), if any			\$260.00	
			Filing Fee Calculation	\$1,050.00

6. Other Fees

Assignment Recordation Fee

Other

0.00

TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED

\$1,050.00

7. Payment of Fees

X Check in the amount of \$1,050.00 enclosed.

8. X Authorization to Charge Additional Fees

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees (or credit any overpayment) associated with this communication and which may be required under 37 CFR § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Account No. 08-1275. **An originally executed duplicate of this transmittal is enclosed for this purpose**

9. X Return Receipt Postcard

Dated: July 25, 2000

By: Jonathan O. Owens
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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. SONY-12601

**A METHOD OF AND APPARATUS FOR UTILIZING EXTENDED AV/C COMMAND
AND RESPONSE FRAMES INCLUDING TRANSACTION LABEL AND COMMON
RESULT/ERROR CODE**

5 Related Applications:

This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of the co-pending U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/153,356 filed September 10, 1999 and entitled "AV/C-2 Protocol extensions to the AV/C Command and Response Frames." The Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/153,356 filed September 10, 1999 and entitled "AV/C-2 Protocol extensions to the AV/C Command and Response Frames" is also hereby incorporated by reference.

Field of the Invention:

The present invention relates to methods for encoding data and data streams transacted over a serial bus network. More specifically, the present invention relates to a method of and apparatus for encoding AV/C command and response frames for asynchronous data transmissions over an IEEE 1394-1995 Standard serial bus network.

Background of the Invention:

20 The IEEE standard, "IEEE Std 1394-1995 Standard For A High Performance Serial Bus," is an international standard for implementing an inexpensive high-speed serial bus architecture which supports both asynchronous and isochronous format data transfers. Isochronous data transfers are real-time transfers which take place such that the time intervals between significant instances have the same duration at both the transmitting and receiving applications. Each

packet of data transferred isochronously is transferred in its own time period. An example of an ideal application for the transfer of data isochronously would be from a video recorder to a television set. The video recorder records images and sounds and saves the data in discrete chunks or packets. The video recorder then transfers each packet, representing the image and sound recorded over a limited time period, during that time period, for display by the television set. The IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus architecture provides multiple channels for isochronous data transfer between applications. A six bit channel number is broadcast with the data to ensure reception by the appropriate application. This allows multiple applications to simultaneously transmit isochronous data across the bus structure. Asynchronous transfers are traditional data transfer operations which take place as soon as possible and transfer an amount of data from a source to a destination.

The IEEE 1394-1995 standard provides a high-speed serial bus for interconnecting digital devices thereby providing a universal I/O connection. The IEEE 1394-1995 standard defines a digital interface for the applications thereby eliminating the need for an application to convert digital data to analog data before it is transmitted across the bus. Correspondingly, a receiving application will receive digital data from the bus, not analog data, and will therefore not be required to convert analog data to digital data. The cable required by the IEEE 1394-1995 standard is very thin in size compared to other bulkier cables used to connect such devices. Devices can be added and removed from an IEEE 1394-1995 bus while the bus is active. If a device is so added or removed the bus will then automatically reconfigure itself for transmitting data between the then existing nodes. A node is considered a logical entity with a unique address on the bus structure. Each node provides an identification ROM, a standardized set of control registers and its own address space. Because of these advantages the IEEE 1394-1995 standard

provides for a unique networking structure that is capable of incorporating audio/video devices, media play/record devices, computing devices and display devices.

A diverse range of products can be implemented with the ability to connect to an IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus network. These devices can have capabilities and functionality ranging from very simple to very complex. Specifically, a variety of audio/video devices, media play/record devices and computing/display devices are capable of being linked together over an IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus networking structure to support asynchronous and isochronous data transfers between the devices.

The IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus allows a collection of devices to work together in a high bandwidth, distributed environment to maximize the overall efficiency and functionality of the network. This allows manufacturers to remove expensive pieces of functionality from one device and locate that functionality in another device on the network, instead of duplicating this functionality in all devices on the network. While some of the devices have limited functionality and are relatively inexpensive, such devices require the support and interaction of other devices in order to bring the full functionality of the devices within the network to the user.

The AV/C Digital Interface Command Set is a command set used for data transactions between consumer audio/video equipment over an IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus. Neither the IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus nor the AV/C command set provide a master-slave relationship between the devices coupled within the IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus network. Instead, both the IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus and the AV/C command set operate based on a cooperative peer-to-peer coexistence of devices within the network. Discrete AV/C command and response data packets are transferred between networked devices over an IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus in an asynchronous data stream. The AV/C command and response data packets are typically formatted according to the AV/C protocol outlined in the AV/C Digital Interface Command Set.

Transfers of AV/C command and response data packets over the IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus network are supported by an AV/C architecture. The AV/C architecture is used by devices to create, process and/or transmit AV/C command and response data packets.

The target device is controllable by a controller device that initiates desired data transactions. The desired data transactions are 1394 write transactions, wherein a controller device requests a target device to perform a task. The data transactions are contained within command and response frames of the command and request data packets which are formatted according to the Function Control Protocol (FCP) and then transferred asynchronously between device nodes on the IEEE 1394 serial bus.

New features are continually being added to devices that operate within the IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus network environment. These new features are not necessarily supported by the existing AV/C command and response frame data format. Compatibility of the newly designed devices and existing or legacy devices is also an issue which must be addressed by designers of devices adding new features.

Summary of the Invention:

The current invention provides a method to encode AV/C command and response data packets to include extended header data fields. Original AV/C header fields contain information that is common to all AV/C commands. The extended header data fields hold extension data to support new features that are common to the system and devices operating therein. The AV/C command and response data packets of the present invention are particularly useful for facilitating transactions of AV/C command and response data between devices while maintaining a constant data payload of 512 bytes per data packet as required to maintain compatibility with existing IEEE 1394-1995 devices.

The invention provides for an adaptive method of transmitting AV/C command and response data packets between devices on a serial bus, wherein extended header fields provide a signature for a preferred AV/C data format to be used between communicating devices. For example, a control device sends an AV/C command data packet containing extended header fields to a receiving target device. The receiving target device then reads the extended header fields and establishes protocol compatibility with the transmitting control device. If the target device is compatible with the AV/C command data format, the target device processes the transaction and subsequent AV/C data transactions between the control device and the target device utilizing the data packets with extended header fields. If the target device is not compatible with the data format, a not implemented response will be sent to the control device and the control device will then send a command data packet without extended header fields. Preferably, control devices keep track of which target device nodes are compatible with AV/C data packets containing extended header fields.

In the preferred embodiment of the invention, extended header fields data is provided to encode AV/C command and response data packets with a number of extension data fields which collectively hold up to 30 bytes of extension data which is indicated using the known opcode field. The extension data is used to support new system or device features. Preferably, the extension data is provided in data fields of the FCP data frames. The extended fields data is encoded using the opcode field such that when the first hexadecimal data value is equal to eight, the second hexadecimal data value is equal to the number of bytes of extension data included within the packet and when the first hexadecimal data value is nine, the opcode field indicates that the number of bytes of extension data included within the packet is equal to fifteen plus the second hexadecimal data value.

In the preferred embodiment of the invention, the AV/C command and response data packets contain extension data fields and extension data appropriate for each transmitting device. Each device operating within the network knows where the extension opcode field is within the data packet construction and any device that receives a data packet containing an unsupported opcode resulting in unsupported extension data fields and/or unsupported extension data, will respond with a not implemented notification. A sending device generates command or response data packets which contain extension data fields and extension data required to support its features without regard to features mutually supported by the receiving device. For example, a control device sends a command data packet with extension data fields and extension data required to support all of its features. When a target device receives the command data packet encoded with one or more extension data fields that are not recognized or supported by the target device, the target device will accept and process the command data packet, but will ignore that extension data fields and the extension data that it does not recognize. To indicate to the controller which extended data fields the target device supports, the target device sends a response frame back to the control device containing only the extended fields that it supports, and the associated opcode field value which encodes those fields. The controller then modifies subsequent packets to include only the extended fields supported by the target device. Alternatively, the control device can continue to issue command data packets with extension data fields and extension data required to support all of the features of the control device.

The existence of extended fields data is alternatively indicated using the cts data field of the FCP data frame and encodes the data packet to hold either one or two bytes of transaction data.

In another embodiment of the current invention, extended header fields encode AV/C command and response data packets for extension data fields that hold transaction data. The

transaction data values encode response and command data packets such that devices operating within the network can use the transaction data values to match pairs of individual response and command data packets or to match sets of command and response data packets. For example, a control device may send several command data packets to a single target device. The target device may respond with a corresponding response data packet for each command data packet sent, but the response data packets may be sent or received out of order. By comparing the transaction label data of the response data packet, the control device matches the response data with the appropriate command data. Preferably, transaction data values are correlated to transaction types or labels that are used to provide detailed histories of each data packet transmitted between devices.

If the data packet is encoded to hold one byte of extended transaction data, 256 corresponding transaction labels or types are possible. If the data packet is encoded to hold two bytes of extended transaction data, 65535 corresponding transaction labels or types are possible. By providing transaction data within AV/C command and response data packets, devices that receive multiple or duplicate requests can provide transaction notification to the sending devices when an error has occurred. Further, transaction data provides a general way to determine the transaction histories for each data packet transmitted over an IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus network.

The extended data fields can also include a result/error field. The result/error field returns specific values that indicate the result of a command, such as status or error of the command, after its execution on the target device.

Brief Description of the Drawings:

Figure 1 illustrates a block diagram of an exemplary IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus network including a computer system and a video camera.

Figure 2 illustrates a block diagram of the internal components of the computer system

5 110.

Fig. 3 shows an exemplary networked system configured for transmitting isochronous and asynchronous data between device nodes over an IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus.

Fig. 4 shows a standard AV/C command and response data packet in accordance with the AV/C Digital Interface Command Set for asynchronous data packet transmission over an IEEE

10 1394-1995 serial bus network.

Figs. 5 a-b show response and command data frames formatted according to the standard AV/C protocol.

Fig. 6 shows a command data frame encoded with extension data according to the modified AV/C format of the preferred embodiment of the current invention.

Fig. 7 shows a table of field values used to indicate status or error values within a result/error field according to the current invention.

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Fig. 8 shows an alternate embodiment of a command data frame encoded with extended transaction data fields via the modification of the cts data field according to the modified AV/C protocol of the current invention.

Fig. 9 illustrates a flow chart for transacting AVC command and response data packets with extension data fields between devices coupled within an IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus according to the preferred embodiment of the invention.

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Fig. 10 illustrates a flow chart for using transaction data values to keep track of multiple AV/C command and response transactions between a control device and a target device.

Fig. 11 illustrates a flow chart for communicating error messages between a control device and a target device coupled within an IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus.

Detailed Description of the invention:

5 A block diagram of an exemplary IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus network including a computer system and a video camera is illustrated in Figure 1. The computer system **110** includes an associated display **112** and is coupled to the video camera **114** by the IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus cable **116**. Video data and associated data are sent between the video camera **114** and the computer **110** over the IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus cable **116**.

10 A block diagram of the internal components of the computer system **110** is illustrated in Figure 2. The computer system **110** includes a central processor unit (CPU) **120**, a main memory **130**, a video memory **122**, a mass storage device **132** and an IEEE 1394-1995 interface circuit **128**, all coupled together by a conventional bidirectional system bus **134**. The interface circuit **128** includes the physical interface circuit **142** for sending and receiving communications over the IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus. The physical interface circuit **142** is coupled to the camera **114** over the IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus cable **116**. In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the interface circuit **128** is implemented on an IEEE 1394-1995 interface card within the computer system **110**. However, it should be apparent to those skilled in the art that the interface circuit **128** can be implemented within the computer system **110** in any other
15 appropriate manner, including building the interface circuit onto the motherboard itself. The mass storage device **132** may include both fixed and removable media using any one or more of magnetic, optical or magneto-optical storage technology or any other available mass storage technology. The system bus **134** contains an address bus for addressing any portion of the
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memory **122** and **130**. The system bus **134** also includes a data bus for transferring data between and among the CPU **120**, the main memory **130**, the video memory **122**, the mass storage device **132** and the interface circuit **128**.

The computer system **110** is also coupled to a number of peripheral input and output devices including the keyboard **138**, the mouse **140** and the associated display **112**. The keyboard **138** is coupled to the CPU **120** for allowing a user to input data and control commands into the computer system **110**. A conventional mouse **140** is coupled to the keyboard **138** for manipulating graphic images on the display **112** as a cursor control device.

A port of the video memory **122** is coupled to a video multiplex and shifter circuit **124**, which in turn is coupled to a video amplifier **126**. The video amplifier **126** drives the display **112**. The video multiplex and shifter circuitry **124** and the video amplifier **126** convert pixel data stored in the video memory **122** to raster signals suitable for use by the display **112**.

Figure 3 illustrates an exemplary network of devices **100** coupled together by an IEEE 1394-1995 input/output serial bus **117**. A television **111**, an internet monitoring device **125**, and a personal computer **120** are coupled to a VCR unit **113** through the IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus **117**. The network of devices **110** further includes a video recorder **115**, that is adapted to transmit image and sound data to any of the monitor devices **111**, **120** and **125** for displaying the image and sound data. The image and sound data is transmitted from the recorder **115** to the monitor devices **111**, **120** and **125** through the serial bus **117**. Video and sound data is transmitted isochronously in data packets as previously described.

Again referring to Figure 3, the television **111** and the VCR unit **113** are controlled by a user through the remote control device **121** or by the computer **120**. By selecting various input commands on the entry pad of the controller device **121** or through the computer key pad **123**, the television **111** and VCR unit **113** can be turned on, shut off and programmed. Entering input

commands at the user level through the control devices **121** and **120**, or at the devices themselves, provides the user with the ability to make requests and to control networked devices. At the systems level command and response data transactions take place between networked devices to carry out the user's requests, maintain device communications, support transmission of image and sound data, to provide for synchronization of data transfers and perform systems diagnostics.

Again referring to Figure 3, AV/C command and response data transactions that take place between the television **111** and the VCR unit **113** or between the video recorder device **115** and the VCR unit **113** provide the instructional data and allow the VCR unit **113** to communicate with the television **111** and the video recorder **115** and to carry out the user requests.

A format of a block write packet **30** according to the IEEE Std 1394-1995 is illustrated in Figure 4. The asynchronous block write packet includes a header **31** and a data payload **32**. The header **31** includes the fields destination_ID, tl, rt, tcode, pri, source_ID, destination_offset, data_length, extended_tcode and header_crc. The destination_ID field is a sixteen bit field which specifies the node ID of the receiving node to which the packet is addressed. The transaction label field tl is a six bit field that specifies a unique tag for each outstanding transaction from a node. The retry code field rt is a two bit field which specifies whether the packet is a retry attempt and the retry protocol to be followed by the destination node. The transaction code field tcode is a four bit field that specifies the packet format and the type of transaction that is to be performed. For a write request for data block operation the transaction code field value is equal to 0001. Within the possible values for the transaction code field, there are currently five values that are reserved.

The priority field pri is a four bit field that is used by the back plane. The source-ID field is a sixteen bit field that specifies the node ID of the transmitting node of the packet. The

destination offset field is a forty-eight bit field that specifies the forty-eight bits of the destination node address of request packet. The data length field is a sixteen bit field that specifies the length of the data field of data block payload packets. The extended transaction code field extended_tcode is a sixteen bit field that conventionally is only meaningful if the transaction code field indicates a lock request or lock response packet. The header_CRC field is a thirty-two bit field that is used to perform a cyclical redundancy check (CRC) on the data within the header.

The data portion of the packet includes a data block payload field and a data_crc field. The data_crc field is a thirty-two bit field that is used to perform a cyclical redundancy check (CRC) on the data within the data portion of the packet.

AV/C command and response data packets are transmitted between networked devices in data streams that are made up of one or more discrete data packets having the format illustrated in Figure 4 and described above. The data packets are transmitted over the serial bus and received by a device with the appropriate destination address. Using a read transaction, data at a particular address within a responding node is transferred back to a requesting node. Using a write transaction, data is transferred from a requesting node to a particular address within one or more responding nodes. Using lock transactions, data is transferred from a requesting node to a responding node, processed with data at a particular address within the responding node and the result is then transferred back to the requesting node.

Again referring to Figure 4, the data payload frame **33** is organized into data sequence of data fields according to the Function Control Protocol (FCP) defined by the standard IEC 61883, Digital interface for Consumer Audio/Video. The Function Control Protocol frame provides a simple format to encapsulate device command and response data sets within the IEEE Standard 1394-1995 serial bus for asynchronous block read and write data transactions. The payload of the FCP frame **33** is limited to a maximum of 512 bytes.

Figures 5a-b show a detailed command FCP data frame **40** and a response FCP data frame **50** formatted in accordance with the standard AV/C protocol. The first data fields in both of the data frames **40** and **50** are the cts data fields **41** and **51**, respectively. The cts data fields **41** and **51** hold 4 bits of data each and define the transaction format that is to be used in the FCP frames **40** and **50**; the code for the standard AV/C format shown in Figures 5a-b is 0000. The ctype data field **42** and the response data field **52** are also 4 bits in length and encode the data packets **40** and **50** for the type of command or response data transaction. For example, a command frame such as the one shown in Figure 5a, may be encoded for a control command, an inquiry command or any other data transaction that is required. The subunit type and the subunit ID data fields **43** and **53** encode the data packets **40** and **50** for the resource subunit within the device that is being used to execute the command data set. For example, the command packet may be issued to start a display of the video monitor, to turn on/off a tuner, turn on/off a recorder and the like. Since several subunit resources may belong to the same device or belong to the same device node address, the subunit type and ID is used to distinguish them. The opcode data fields **44** and **54** code the data packets **40** and **50** for the device operation to be executed and the operand data fields define the parameters of the operation to be executed.

Figure 6 illustrates a data packet **80** according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention. The cts data field **81** indicates that the format of the data to be used in the data packet **80**, shall be AV/C, and thus indicates the presence of the data field **84** which takes the place of the opcode field. The data field **84** provides encoding for the data packet to include a number of extension data fields. The data field **84** is preferably one byte in length and positioned after the subunit_type and subunit_ID data fields **85** in the same location as the opcode field **44** in the command FCP data frame **40** of Figure 5a. The data field **84**, in this example, indicates the number of extension data fields **87**, **88**, **89** and **90**. In the preferred embodiment of the invention

the data values in the data field **84** indicate the number of extension fields, wherein each extension field preferably includes one byte of extended data. In this preferred embodiment, the data field **84** encodes the data packet **80** for the number of extension data fields according to the following method: when the first hexadecimal index data value is eight, the second hexadecimal index data value encodes for the number of extension data bytes; and when the first hexadecimal index data value is nine, the number of extension data bytes is equal to fifteen plus the second hexadecimal index data value. For example, when the data field **84** has a hexadecimal data value of 84_{16} , the number of extension data fields is equal to four, such as the extension bytes **87**, **88**, **89** and **90** shown in Figure 6. If the data field **84** has a hexadecimal data value of 94_{16} (not shown), the number of extension data bytes is equal to fifteen plus four or nineteen extension data bytes. In this way, the data packet **80** can be encoded to have any number of extension data fields from one to thirty-one by providing the appropriate data in the data field **84**. The extended data fields are then used to hold extension data to support common command data for devices operating therein.

Again referring to Figure 6, the extension data fields **87-90** are used to hold extension data to support any number of added features but are particularly useful for holding transaction data, wherein the transaction data within the fields **87-90** encode the data packet for transaction histories of previously transmitted and or received data packets. In an embodiment of the invention, one or two of the extension data fields **87** and **88** are used to provide a data packet number. Each data packet is assigned a transaction label number with a unique value that is used by networked devices to discern when duplicate requests have been made and to provide a numerical transaction history for each data packet. The transaction data values are recycled when the maximum number of assigned values is reached which will depend on the size of the transaction data field. If the data packet **80** is encoded to have one byte of transaction data, the

data field will support 256 data values. If the data packet **80** is encoded to hold two bytes of transaction data, up to 65535 data values are possible. While the data packet shown in Figure 6 is encoded to contain two bytes for the AV/C transaction label that are each one byte in length, it will be clear to one skilled in the art that the data packet can be encoded to contain a single data field that is one byte in length or less.

Also, a result/error field can be encoded within the extension data fields **89** and **90** in this header. Within the command frame **80**, illustrated in Figure 6, the extension data fields **89** and **90** include result/error information. The result/error information returns specific values that indicate the result of a command, such as status or error of the command after its execution on the target device. Figure 7 illustrates a table of field values preferably used to indicate various status or error values within the result/error field.

Figure 8 illustrates an alternative embodiment of a modified AV/C command frame **60** that is formatted in accordance with the present invention. The cts data field **61** is encoded to indicate the data sequence within the data packet **60** with the extension data fields **63** and **65** and specifies that this data packet is an extended transaction code data packet. In the AV/C command frame **60** of Figure 8, the cts data field **61** includes a binary value equal to 1000. The extension data fields **63** and **65** are reserved to hold extension data for supporting new or added common features of the device or system. In the command data frame shown in Figure 8, the cts data field **61** encodes the data frame **60** for two bytes of extension data preferably positioned in the data sequence after the ctype data field **62** and before the subunit type and ID data fields **64**.

Figure 9 shows a flow chart illustrating a method for transmitting command and response data packets according to the preferred embodiment of the current invention. Preferably, each device within the network is capable of processing AV/C data packets encoded with extended data fields and of utilizing extension data that it recognizes. Further, it is preferable that control

devices within the system are capable of ignoring or removing unsupported extension data from extended data fields. Accordingly, in the step **401**, a control device sends an AV/C command data packet containing extended data fields required to support all of its features to a target device. In the step **403**, it is determined if the target device recognizes the extension opcode. If it is determined at the step **403** that the target device does not recognize the extension opcode within the AV/C packet, then the target device returns a not implemented response packet, at the step **405**. Then, at the step **407**, the control device sends a command packet without the extended header fields to the target device utilizing a previous version of the command packet. At the step **409**, the control device receives a response packet from the target device without the extended header fields. The transaction is then complete at the step **419**. If, at the step **403**, it is determined that the target device recognizes the extension opcode in the AV/C packet, then in the step **411**, the target device processes the data packet using only extended data bytes that it supports or recognizes and ignores extension data and extended data fields that it does not recognize or that it does not support. In the step **413**, the target device returns a response data packet to the control device with extension data and extended data fields that the target device supports, along with the corrected encoded extension opcode.

The control device then determines, at the step **415**, whether the extension opcode received in the response packet from the target device is smaller than the extension opcode in the original AV/C command packet. If it is determined at the step **415**, that the extension opcode in the response packet is smaller than the extension opcode in the original AV/C command packet, then at the step **417**, the control device stores the value of the extension opcode received in the response packet to use with future commands sent to the target device. The transaction is then complete at the step **419**. Otherwise, if it is determined at the step **415**, that the extension opcode

in the response packet is not smaller than the extension opcode in the original AV/C command packet, then the transaction is complete at the step **419**.

The AV/C command and response data packets utilized in the current invention maintain the basic data construction of the standard AV/C command and response control data frame.

5 However, it may occur that there are several devices operating within an IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus environment that are not compatible with the modified AV/C command and response data packets or portions thereof. Thus, the present invention provides a method of establishing compatibility between devices that support the new features and older devices that do not. The preferred steps for establishing compatibility between devices within an IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus environment utilizing the modified AV/C command and response data packets are outlined in the steps of Figure 9.

Figure 10 is a flow chart illustrating a method for using transaction data to match device command data packets with corresponding response data packets using AV/C transaction data according to the present invention. In the step **201**, a control device sends a command data packet with a transaction data field and transaction data. In the step **203**, the target device receives and reads the command data packet and in the step **205**, the target device sends a corresponding response data packet to the control device with a transaction data field and transaction data which matches the transaction data contained within the command data packet sent in the step **201**. In the event that the several data transactions are taking place between
20 networked devices, the control device can keep track of which response and command data packets belong together, regardless of the order in which the command and response data packets are sent or received. In one embodiment of the invention the transaction data values are provided for command and response data packets sequentially. The transaction labels are recycled such

that when the maximum number of unique transaction labels that are supported by the data field have been assigned, the transaction data values are reused.

Again referring to Figure 10, after the target device receives and reads the command data packet in the step **203** and sends the response data packet in the step **205**, then in the step **209**, the control device determines if there is a match between the command data packet issued in the step **201** and the response data packet sent in the step **205**. If in the step **209**, the control device determines that there is a match, then in the step **211** data transmission between the target device and the control device continues as required by the system, with different transaction label values for each new transaction. If, however, in the step **209** the control device determines that there is not a match between an issued command data packet and the response data packet issued in the step **205**, then in the step **207**, the control device will ignore the response data packet.

Figure 11 illustrates a flow chart outlining a method for using error data and labels within response data packets according to the present invention. In the step **301**, a control device sends a command data packet with extended data fields according to the present invention to a target device. In the step **303**, the control device receives a response data packet from the target device in response to the command data packet sent in the step **301**. In the step **305**, the control device determines if the result/error field of the response packet has a hexadecimal value equal to 0000. If the control device determines that the result/error field does have a value equal to 0000, then at the step **307**, the control device recognizes that there is no status/error value in the response packet and the target device executed the original command packet without error. If, at the step **305**, the control device determines that the result/error field does not have a value equal to 0000, then, at the step **309**, the control device determines if the result/error field of the response packet has a hexadecimal value in the range from 0001 to 0FFF. If the control device determines that

the result/error field does have a value in the range of 0001 to 0FFF, then at the step **311**, the control device handles the appropriate accepted status of the result/error field.

If, at the step **309**, the control device determines that the result/error field does not have a value in the range of 0001 to 000F, then, at the step **313**, the control device determines if the result/error field of the response packet has a hexadecimal value in the range of 2000 to 2FFF. If the control device determines that the result/error field does have a value in the range of 2000 to 2FFF, then at the step **315**, the control device recognizes that the command is not supported by the target device and should not be reissued.

If, at the step **313**, the control device determines that the result/error field does not have a value in the range of 2000 to 2FFF, then, at the step **317**, the control device determines if the result/error field of the response packet has a hexadecimal value in the range of 4000 to 4FFF. If the control device determines that the result/error field does have a value in the range of 4000 to 4FFF, then, at the step **319**, the control device recognizes that there is a command field error in the original command data packet. The control device checks the command fields in the original command data packet and reissues the original command data packet.

If, at the step **317**, the control device determines that the result/error field does not have a value in the range of 4000 to 4FFF, then, at the step **321**, the control device determines if the result/error field of the response packet has a hexadecimal value in the range of 6000 to 6FFF. If the control device determines that the result/error field does have a value in the range of 6000 to 6FFF, then, at the step **323**, the control device recognizes that there is an unsupported field value or out of range error in the original data command packet. The control device checks the command fields in the original command data packet and reissues the original command data packet.

If, at the step **321**, the control device determines that the result/error field does not have a value in the range of 6000 to 6FFF, then, at the step **325**, the control device determines if the result/error field of the response packet has a hexadecimal value in the range of 8000 to 8FFF. If the control device determines that the result/error field does have a value in the range of 8000 to 8FFF, then, at the step **327**, the control device recognizes the there is an error related to the state of the target device. The control device issues the command after the state of the target device changes.

If, at the step **325**, the control device determines that the result/error field does not have a value in the range of 8000 to 8FFF, then, at the step **329**, the control device determines if the result/error field of the response packet has a hexadecimal value equal to 9000. If the control device determines that the result/error field does have a value equal to 9000, then, at the step **331**, the control device recognizes that there is an invalid subunit error. The control device requeries the subunit type and ID and reissues the command packet, as appropriate.

If, at the step **329**, the control device determines that the result/error field does not have a value equal to 9000, then, at the step **333**, the control device determines if the result/error field of the response packet has a hexadecimal value equal to 9001. If the control device determines that the result/error field does have a value equal to 9001, then, at the step **335**, the control device recognizes that there is an unknown error. The control device then reissues the command packet at a later time. If, at the step **333**, the control device determines that the result/error field does not have a value equal to 9001, then, the process ends at the step **337**.

The present invention has been described in terms of specific embodiments incorporating details to facilitate the understanding of the principles of construction and operation of the invention. Such references, herein, to specific embodiments and details thereof are not intended to limit the scope of the claims appended hereto. It will be apparent to those skilled in the art

that modifications can be made in the embodiment chosen for illustration without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Specifically, it will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that an IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus network can establish communication protocols in any number of way with the modified AV/C command and response packet format. Further the position of the extended fields within the FCP data frame is preferably positioned early in the data packet sequence, but can be placed anywhere within the data packet. It will also be apparent to those skilled in the art that while the preferred embodiment of the present invention is used with an IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus structure, the present invention could also be implemented on any other appropriate digital interfaces or bus structures, including other or later versions of the IEEE 1394 serial bus.

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of encoding a data packet with an extension field, wherein the data packet substantially conforms to a standardized AV/C command or response data packet for transmitting the data packet over a network, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing a data packet with a control data frame having a fixed payload, wherein the control data frame comprises a sequence of data fields; and
 - b) providing extended fields data within at least one of the data fields, wherein the extended fields data encodes the data packet for the extension data field.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the network is a network which substantially complies with a version of the IEEE 1394 standard.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the data packet is an asynchronous data packet comprising a header portion and wherein the control data frame includes a cts data field, a data type data field, a subunit type data field, a subunit ID data field, and operand data fields and wherein the extended fields data is provided within the cts data field and the extension data field holds at least one byte of extension data.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the extended fields data comprises one byte of data including a first hexadecimal data value and a second hexadecimal data value and encodes the data packet to hold a number of extension data bytes, wherein the number of extension data bytes is determined such that when the first hexadecimal data value of the

5 extended fields data is equal to eight, the second hexadecimal data value of the extended
6 fields data equals the number of extension data bytes; and when the first hexadecimal
7 data value is equal to nine, the number of extension data bytes is fifteen plus the second
8 hexadecimal data value.

1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the extended fields data further encodes the data packet
2 for a transaction data field capable of holding one byte of transaction data.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the number of one byte extension data fields is
2 determined such that when a first hexadecimal data value of the extended fields data is
3 equal to eight, a second hexadecimal data value of the extended fields data equals the
4 number of extension data fields; and when the first hexadecimal data value is equal to
5 nine, the number of extension data fields is fifteen plus the second hexadecimal data
6 value.

1 7. A data stream for asynchronous data transmission from a client device to a target device
2 over a standard IEEE 1394 serial bus network, wherein the stream of data comprises data
3 packets with control data frames having a fixed data payload and, wherein at least one of
4 the data packets comprises a control data frame with extended fields data and feature
5 data, wherein the extended fields data provides a signature for the presence of the feature
6 data to the target device.

1 8. The data stream of claim 7, wherein the extended fields data further provides a signature
2 for the quantity of feature data.

- 1 9. The data stream of claim 7, wherein the extended fields data comprises one byte of data
2 including a first hexadecimal data value and a second hexadecimal data value and
3 wherein the extended fields data encodes the data packet for a number of extension data
4 fields that each hold one byte of extension data, wherein the number of extension data
5 fields is determined such that when the first hexadecimal data value of the extended fields
6 data is equal to eight, the second hexadecimal data value of the extended fields data
7 equals the number of extension data fields; and when the first hexadecimal data value is
8 equal to nine, the number of extension data fields is fifteen plus the second hexadecimal
9 data value.
- 1 10. The data stream of claim 7, wherein the feature data includes one byte of feature data that
2 provides a transaction label code representing a history of a previous data transmission
3 between the client device and the target device.
- 1 11. A system for transmission of asynchronous AV/C command and response data over a
2 standard IEEE 1394 serial bus, the system comprising:
3 a) a control device in communication with the standard IEEE 1394 serial bus, the
4 control device being configured for generating a command data stream
5 comprising at least one command data packet with a control data frame
6 comprising control data fields; and
7 b) a target device in communication with the standard IEEE 1394 serial bus, the
8 target device being configured for receiving the command data stream and
9 generating a corresponding response data stream comprising at least one response

10 data packet with a control data frame comprising a target data fields wherein at
11 least one of the target data fields is a response transaction label data field
12 containing transaction label data that codes the response data stream for the
13 compatibility of the target device with the command data stream received.

1 12. The system of claim 11, wherein the transaction label data that codes the response data
2 stream for error status and error labels.

1 13. The system of claim 11, wherein at least of the control data fields is a command
2 transaction data field containing command transaction data, and further wherein the
3 response transaction data and the control transaction data match the command data stream
4 with the corresponding response data stream.

1 14. The system of claim 11, wherein the target device is a video recorder subunit.

1 15. The system of claim 11, wherein the control device comprises a video screen and an input
2 device.

1 16. The system of claim 11, further comprising a memory unit for storing transaction data
2 values data.

- 1 17. A method for the transmission of AV/C command and response data packets over an
2 IEEE 1394 serial bus, the method comprising the steps of:
- 3 a) submitting an AV/C command data packet from a control device with features
4 over the serial bus to a target device comprising more or less features than the
5 control device, wherein the command data packet is formatted with containing
6 extension fields and extension data for supporting all of the control device
7 features;
- 8 b) receiving the AV/C command data packet at the target device and generating a
9 response data packet therefrom, wherein the response data packet is absent of a
10 portion of the extension data and containing response extension data fields and
11 extension data for supporting all of the features of the target device; and
- 12 c) transmitting the response data packet to the control device, wherein the control
13 device reads the response data packet and formats subsequently transmitted
14 command data packets to comprise extension data fields and extension data for
15 supporting features of both the control device and the target device.
- 1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein a record of features that are supported by both the
2 control device and the target device is kept by the control device.
- 1 19. A system for transmission of asynchronous AV/C command and response data over a
2 standard IEEE 1394 serial bus, the system comprising:
- 3 a) a control device in communication with the standard IEEE 1394 serial bus, the
4 control device being configured for generating a command data stream
5 comprising at least one command data packet with a control data frame

6 comprising control data fields, wherein at least one of the control data fields
7 comprises extended fields data providing a signature for control device features;
8 and
9 b) a target device in communication with the standard IEEE 1394 serial bus, the
10 target device being configured for receiving the command data stream and
11 generating a response data stream comprising at least one response data packet
12 with a control data frame comprising a target data field, wherein the target data
13 field comprises features data providing a signature of features implemented at the
14 target device.

1 20. The system of claim 19, wherein the response data packet provides a signature for
2 features supported by both the control device and the target device.

1 21. The system of claim 19, wherein the control device is capable of adding or removing the
2 extended fields data field for subsequently transmitted command data packets in the event
3 that the target device does not support features encoded for therein.

1 22. The system of claim 19, wherein the target device is a video recorder subunit.

1 23. The system of claim 19, wherein the control device comprises a video screen and an input
2 device.

1 24. The system of claim 19, wherein the control device is capable of storing the feature data
2 to provide a history of at least one data transmission between the control device and the
3 target device.

1 25. A method of establishing a communication protocol for the transmission of AV/C
2 command and response data packets over an IEEE 1394 serial bus, the method
3 comprising the steps of:

- 4 a) submitting an AV/C command data packet from a control device over the serial
5 bus to a target device, wherein the command data packet is formatted with
6 extended fields data and extension fields which provides a feature signature for
7 features of the control device;
8 b) detecting the extended fields data at the target device and generating a response
9 data packet therefrom, wherein the response data packet provides a compatibility
10 signature for control device features that are compatible with the target device;
11 and
12 c) transmitting the response data packet to the control device, wherein the control
13 device reads the response data packet and formats subsequently transmitted
14 command data packets transmitted to the target device to comprise extended fields
15 data and extension data fields that support compatible features.

1 26. The method of claim 25, wherein when the response data packet contains an error
2 message, extended fields data and extension data fields are removed from the
3 subsequently transmitted command data packets.

1 27. The method of claim 25, wherein an established communication protocol is stored by
2 target device to provide a history of the compatible device features.

Abstract

The present invention provides a method to encode AV/C command and response data packets for extension data fields. The AV/C command and response data packets are used for asynchronous data block transactions between devices over an IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus network. Extension data fields are used that hold extension data that support new or added features of an IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus network and devices operating therein. The AV/C data packets are encoded for the extension data fields by providing extended fields data within data fields of the Function Control Protocol (FCP) data frames. The extended fields data specifies whether or not the packet includes extension data fields, and if so, how many bytes of extension data may be included within the data field. Preferably, the extended fields data is provided early within the data sequence of the FCP data frame such that a receiving device reads the extended fields data in an AV/C command data packet and based on device compatibilities for processing extension data, the receiving device will either ignore the feature data, respond with an error message or respond with a modified data packet format which provides a signature for the mutually supported features. Extension data supports device and system features such as transaction labels, that identify the source of the data packet after it is received, and error/result messages, that are used to notify a user or a networked device that a transaction has failed or was successful. Transaction data is also used to determine the number of other extension data fields to be used during AV/C data transacted between devices and provides for the ability to establish communication protocols based on the mutually supported features of the communicating devices.

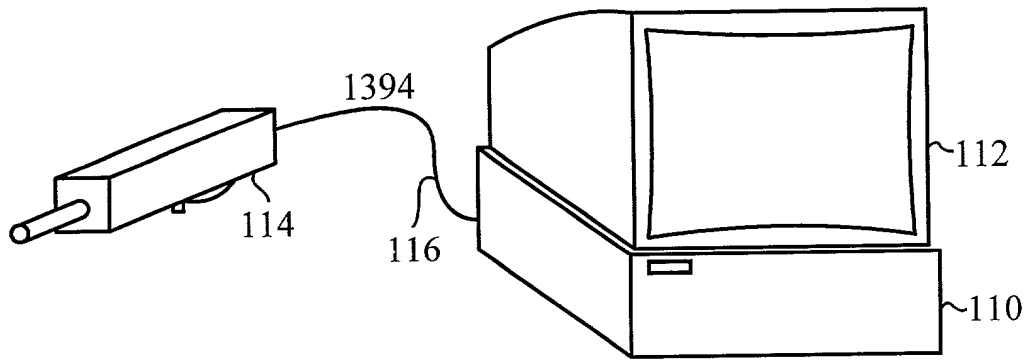


Fig. 1 PRIOR ART

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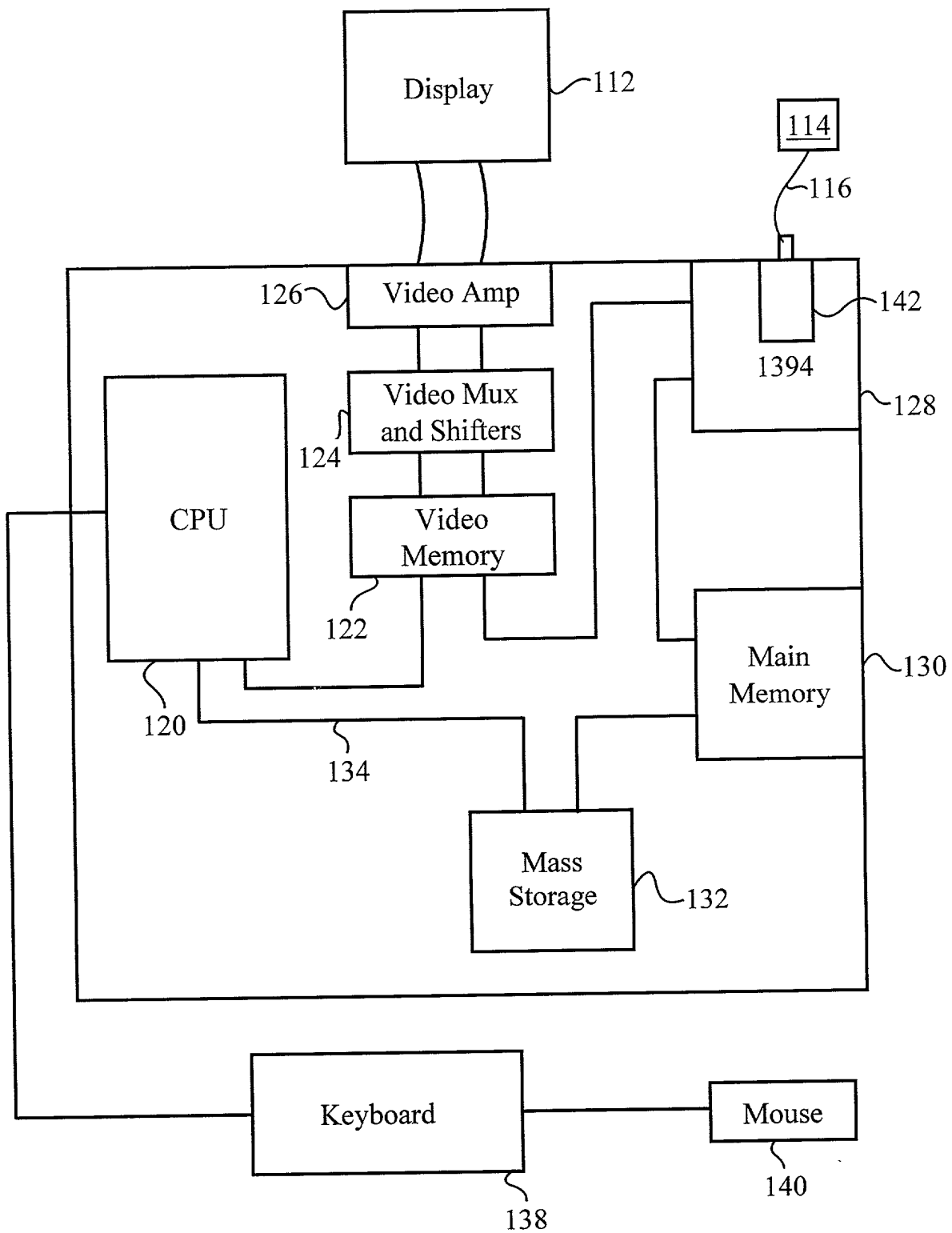


Fig. 2 PRIOR ART

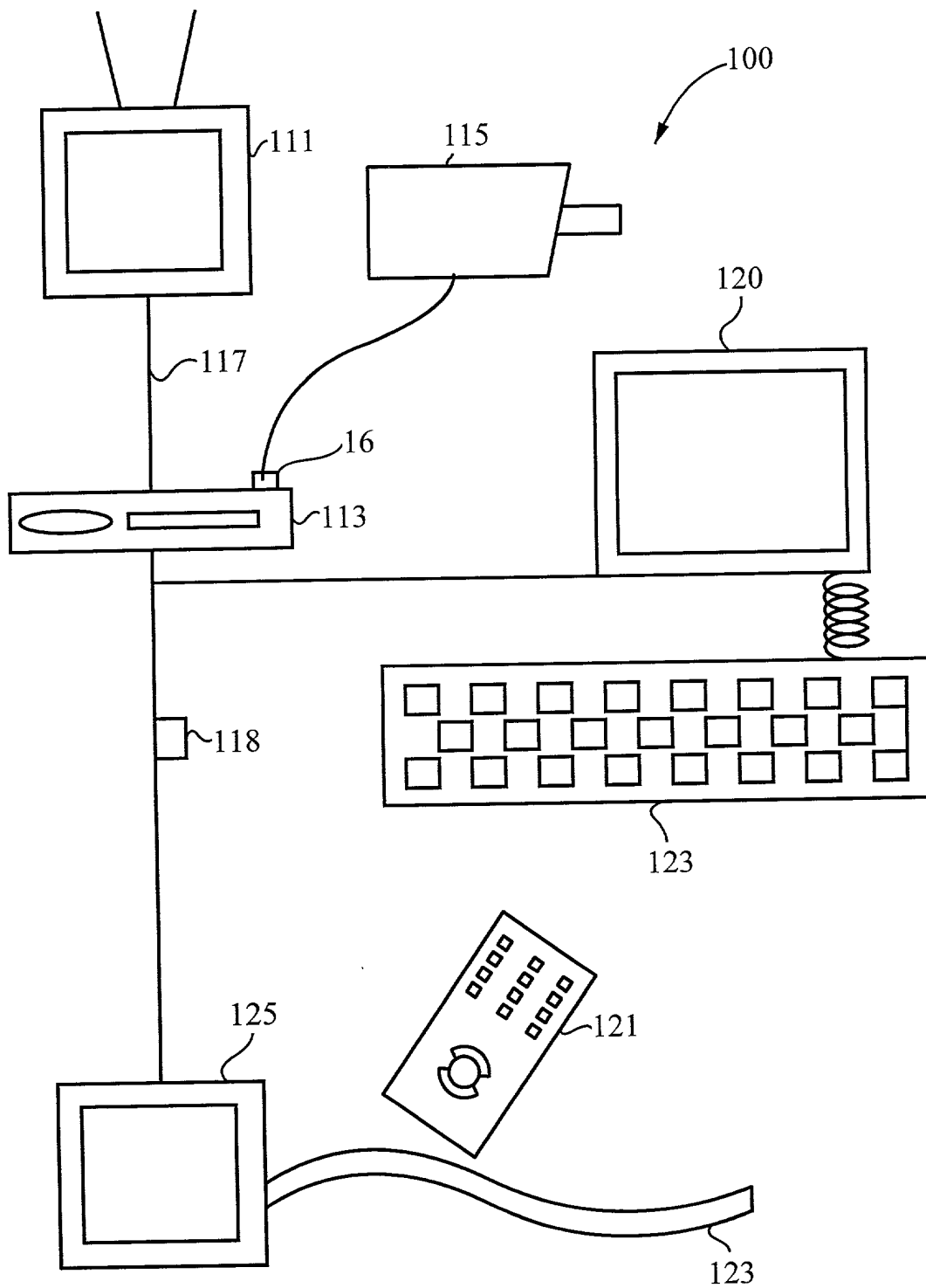


Fig. 3 PRIOR ART

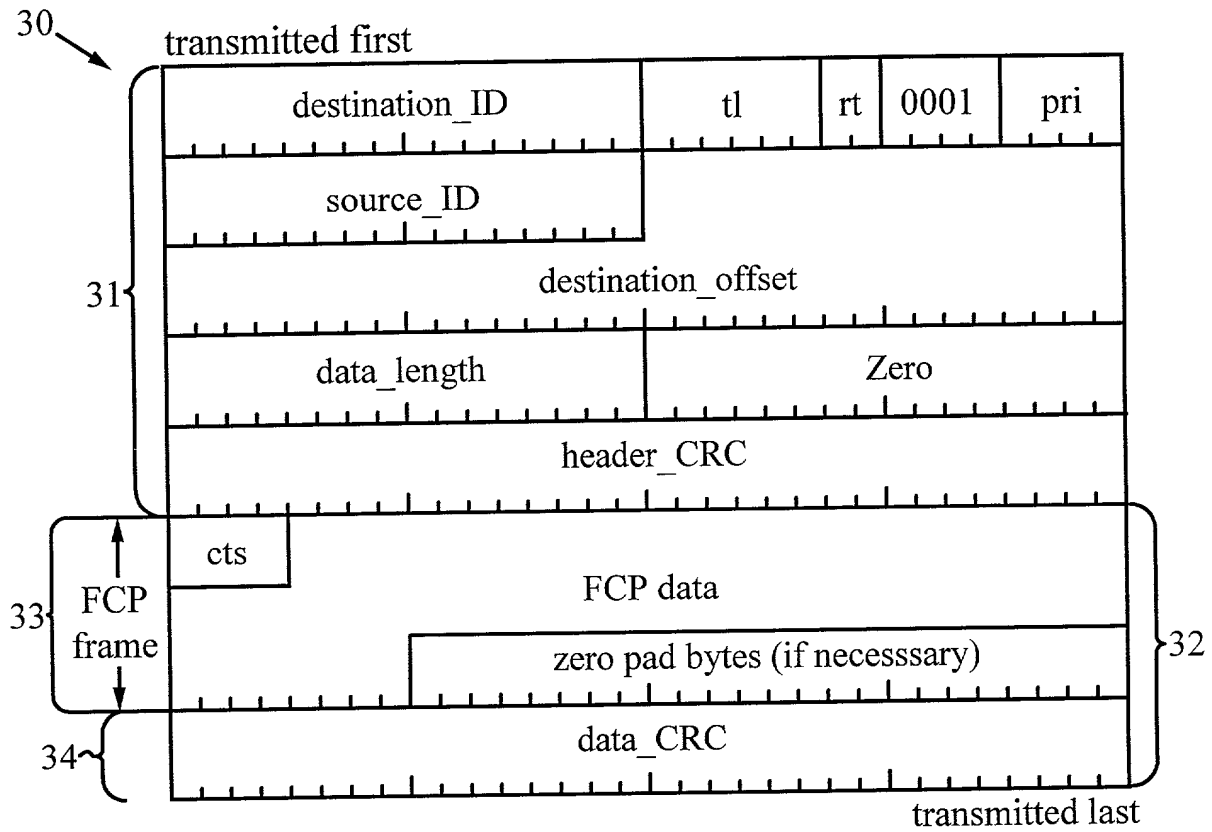
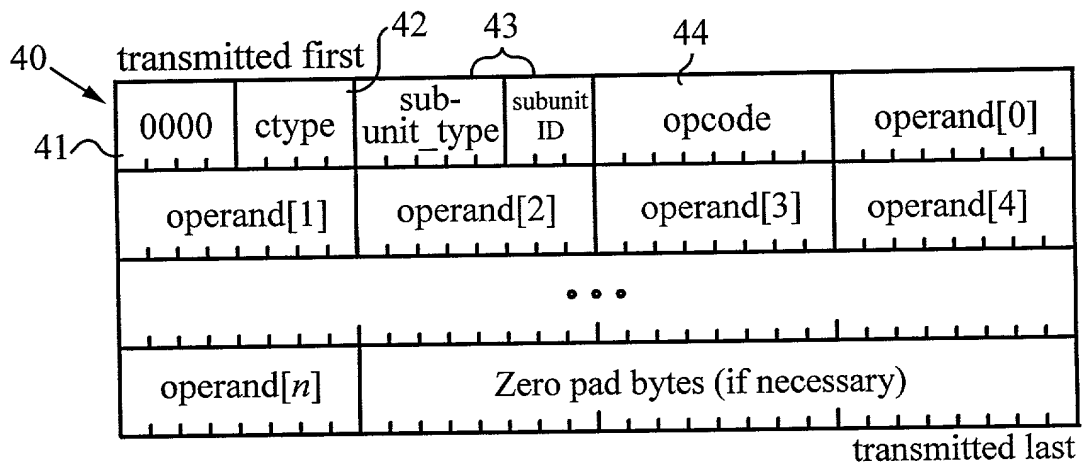
Fig. 4 PRIOR ART

Fig. 5A

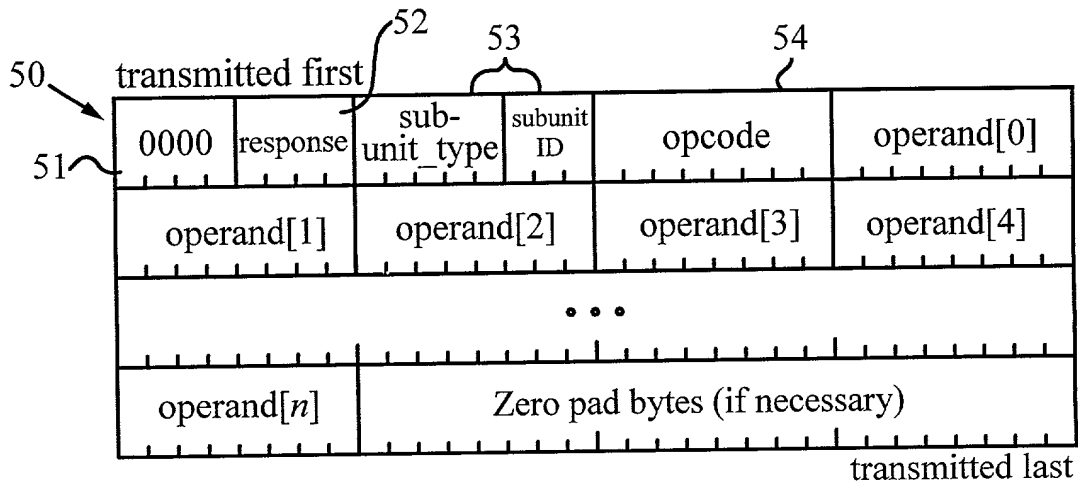
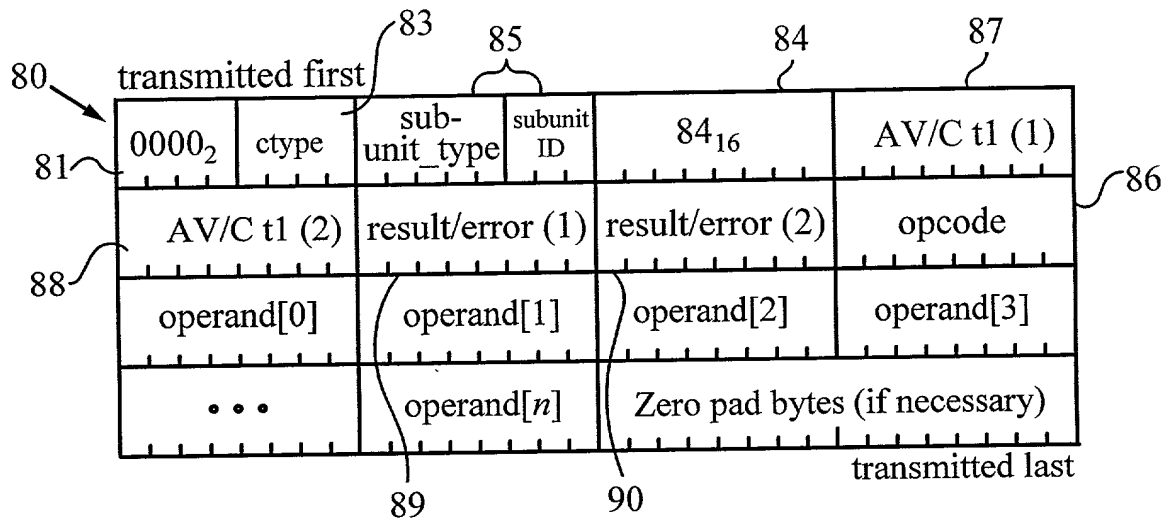
Fig. 5B PRIOR ART

Fig. 6

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Field Value	Status/Error Type
0000 ₁₆	No Status/Error (accepted)
0001 ₁₆ - 0FFF ₁₆	Accepted Statuses
1000 ₁₆ - 1FFF ₁₆	Reserved
2000 ₁₆ - 2FFF ₁₆	Unsupported Command
3000 ₁₆ - 3FFF ₁₆	Reserved
4000 ₁₆ - 4FFF ₁₆	Invalid field errors
5000 ₁₆ - 5FFF ₁₆	Reserved
6000 ₁₆ - 6FFF ₁₆	Unsupported field error
7000 ₁₆ - 7FFF ₁₆	Reserved
8000 ₁₆ - 8FFF ₁₆	Target State Error
9000 ₁₆	Invalid subunit
9001 ₁₆	Unknown Error
9002 ₁₆ - FFFF ₁₆	Reserved

Fig. 7

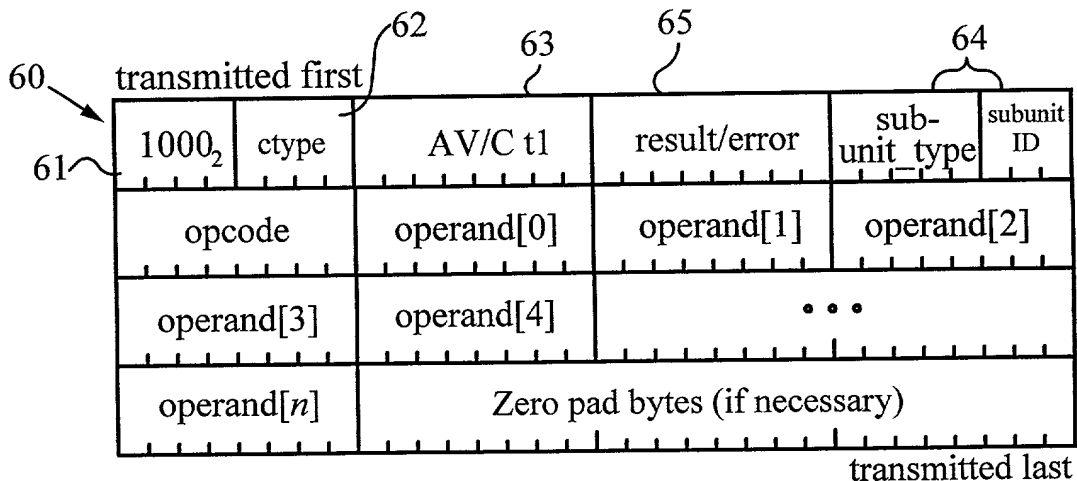


Fig. 8

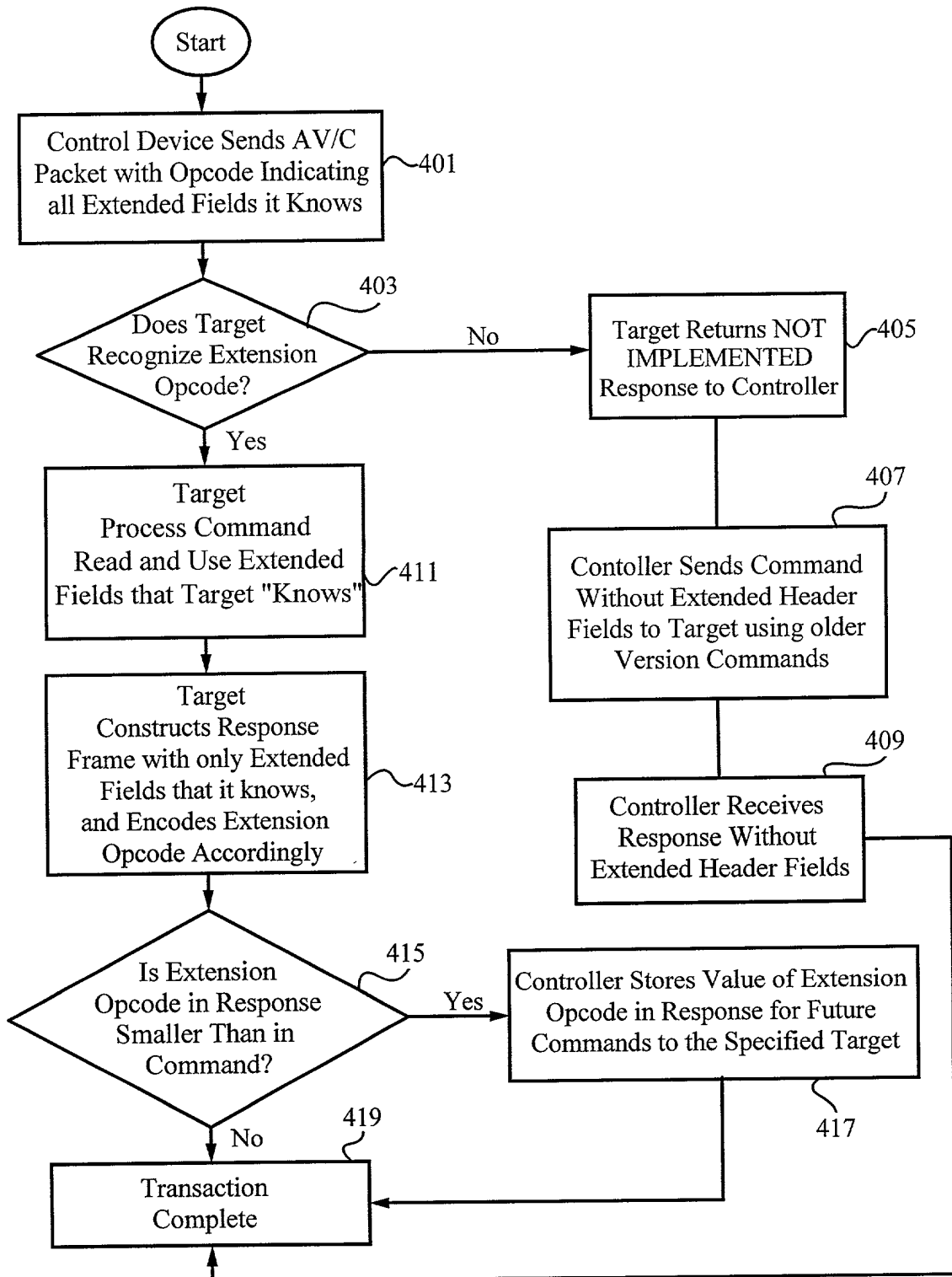
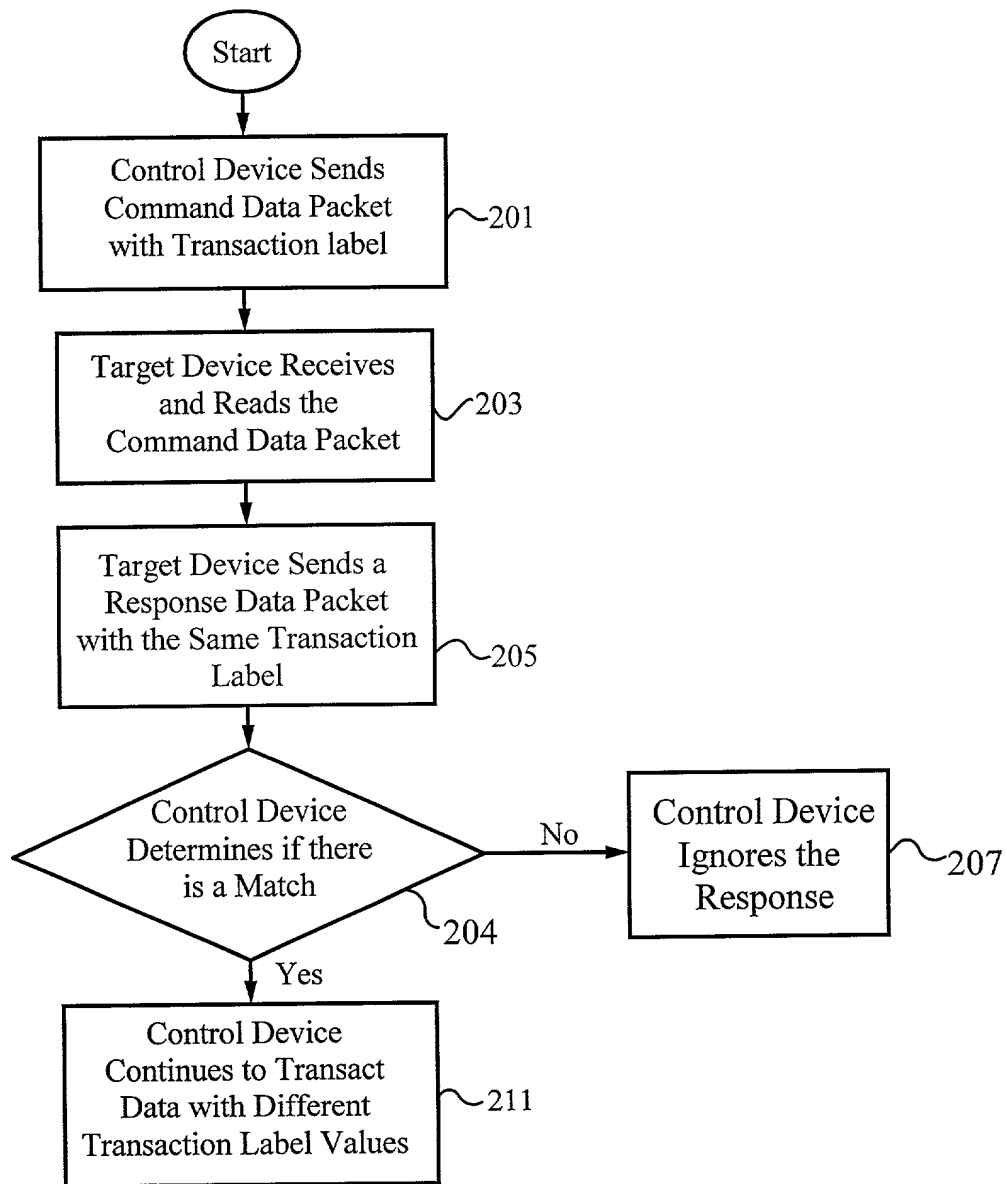


Fig. 9

*Fig. 10*

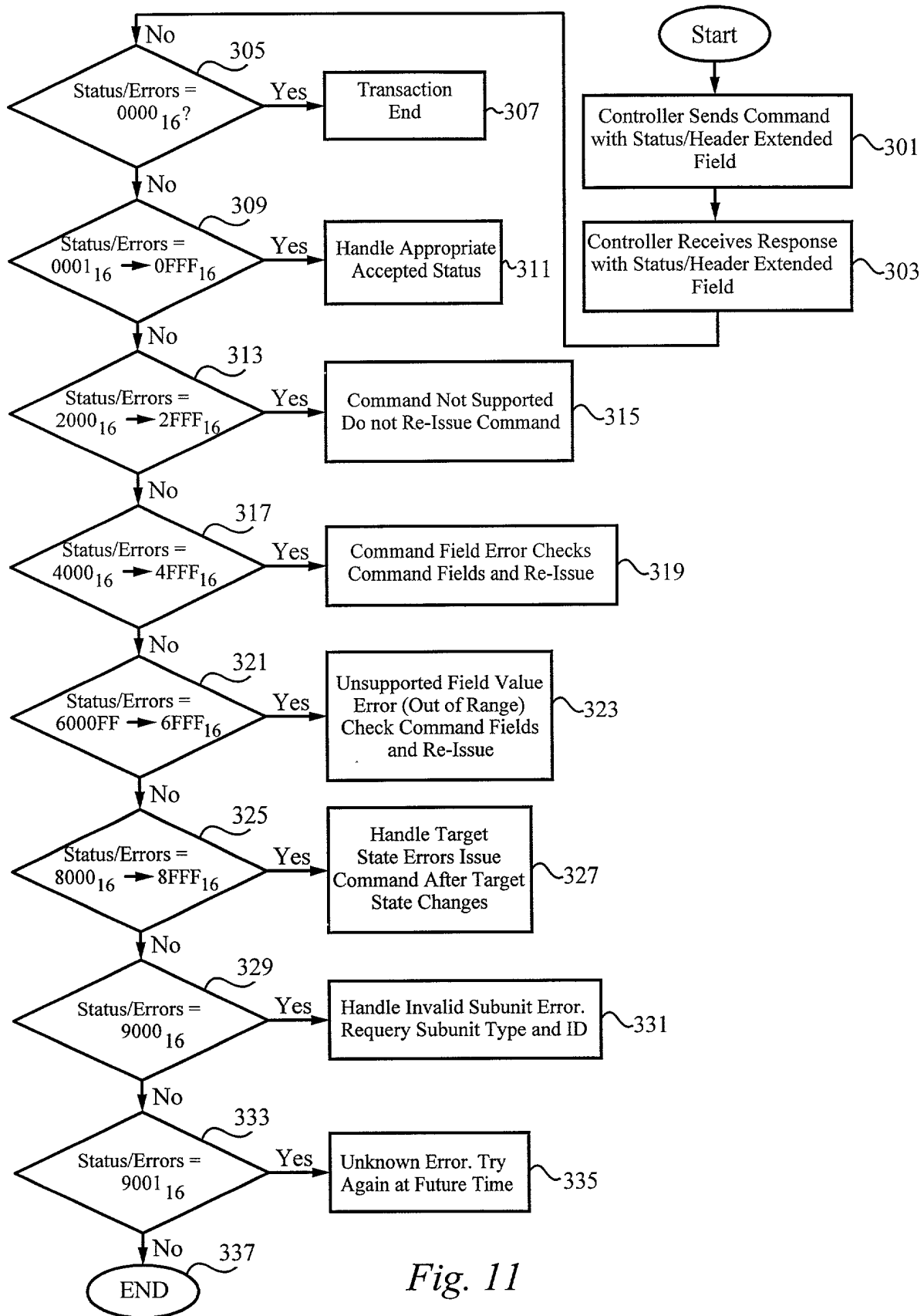


Fig. 11

